

REQUIREMENTS FOR  
**CROSS-CATEGORICAL SPECIAL EDUCATION, K - 12 CERTIFICATE**  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

*CERTIFICATE QUALIFIES THE HOLDER TO TEACH STUDENTS WITH MILD TO MODERATE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY, EMOTIONAL DISABILITY, SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY, ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS AND OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHING CERTIFICATE OR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT IN COMBINATION WITH AN ARIZONA CROSS-CATEGORICAL, EMOTIONAL DISABILITY, LEARNING DISABILITY, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY, ORTHOPEDIC / OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT OR SEVERELY AND PROFOUNDLY DISABLED SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING CERTIFICATE IS NOT REQUIRED TO HOLD THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE.*

➤ **PROVISIONAL CROSS-CATEGORICAL SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE**

*The Provisional certificate is valid for 3 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 3 years.*

Requirements for the Provisional Cross-Categorical Special Education certificate are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See *Application for Certification*)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](#) website or call (602) 223-2279.
4. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
5. Option A, B, or C:
  - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in special education from an accredited institution, which included courses in intellectual disability, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments and other health impairments.
  - B. Forty-five semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution to include 21 semester hours of special education courses and 8 semester hours of practicum with students representing at least 3 of the 5 disability areas of intellectual disability, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments, and other health impairments.
    - Special education courses shall include: 1. Survey of exceptional students; 2. Teaching methodologies and strategies for students with disabilities; 3. Foundations course in mild to moderate intellectual disability, learning disability, emotional disabilities and physical/other health impairment; 4. Diagnosis and assessment of mild disabilities; and 5. Electives in special education (if needed).
    - **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience in special education representing 3 of the 5 disability areas in grades K-12 may substitute for the 8 semester hours of practicum. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
  - C. A valid Cross-Categorical Special Education certificate from another state.
6. Professional Knowledge Elementary Exam.

**One of the following:**

  - A. A passing score on the *NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge: Elementary* **OR** a passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge Elementary (replaced by the NES Assessment).
  - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
  - C. Three (3) years of full-time teaching in grades K-12. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
7. Subject Knowledge Cross-Category Special Education Exam.

**One of the following:**

  - A. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Cross-Category Special Education portion of the Arizona Educator Exam ([NES or AEPA](#)).
  - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
  - C. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Cross-Categorical Special Education.

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8. Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement \*

The SEI endorsement requires **ONE** of the following (option A, B, or C):

- A. Official transcript documenting a three (3) semester hours State Board approved SEI course or comparable SEI training from another state.  
**-OR-**
- B. Certificate of training documenting completion of forty-five (45) clock hours of State Board approved SEI training or comparable SEI training from another state.  
**-OR-**
- C. Teachers and administrators who hold a **Full** English as a Second Language (ESL) or **Full** Bilingual Education endorsement are exempt from the SEI requirement. Note: The Provisional ESL and Provisional Bilingual endorsements will **NOT** meet the SEI endorsement requirement.

\* **Note:** The requirements for a SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed one year for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other certification requirements.

<b>Requirements # 9 and # 10 are required within one year or three years. **</b>
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9. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

10. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

**\*\*NOTE:** *If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have 3 years under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have 1 year to fulfill the requirement(s).*

➤ **STANDARD CROSS-CATEGORICAL SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE**

*The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and is renewable.*

Requirements for the Standard Cross-Categorical Special Education certificate are:

- 1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Cross-Categorical Special Education certificate for **2 years**.
- 2. **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate may be used to convert the Provisional certificate to a Standard certificate. Submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying two years of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate being converted.
- 3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](http://www.AZED.GOV/EDUCATOR-CERTIFICATION/) website or call (602) 223-2279.